

Lesson 17

The Fourth Angelic Explanation: Why Babylon Must Be Utterly Destroyed

Revelation 17:1-19:10

Invite the Holy Spirit to teach and speak to you through the Word of God as you meditate on Revelation 17:1-19:10 every day this week.

As you read through the verses presented this week, look for a special verse to make your memory verse for the week. We will share our verses at the end of our discussion time.

1. What was a new or interesting thought from last week's lesson?

“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Almighty reigns!’”

Revelation 19:6

The bowl judgments are so horrible and destructive that John may have been questioning why they are necessary. Are they too severe? How could a loving God allow these things to happen? This section answers these questions by showing how pervasive and evil the influence of Babylon will be. This section brings insight into how Satan will deceive the people on the earth at this time and persecute true believers. These passages depict the religious/economic system that will be in place during the Great Tribulation and explain why the total destruction of this structure must be thoroughly and completely accomplished. This angel is showing John more about the seventh bowl judgment that was mentioned in Revelation 16:17-19. Remember that the angelic interludes in Revelation are more symbolic than the other passages.

2. Describe the Great Harlot from Revelation 17:1-5 and Revelation 18.
3. “She sits on many waters,” verse 1. From Revelation 17:15, what does this image in Revelation 17:1 depict?
4. How will the rulers of the nations and most people regard this “woman”?

5. A “scarlet beast” is mentioned in Revelation 17:3. Who is the beast according to our earlier lessons? What do you think scarlet depicts?
6. She serves others with a golden cup that appears good, but what is in her cup?
7. What do the images of purple and gold and jewels and pearls typically represent?
8. What is the name written upon her forehead according to Revelation 17:5?

Interestingly, the followers of the Lord Jesus are called the bride of Christ and the followers of the religious/economic system that is associated with the Antichrist are called the great harlot. Many Bible commentators disagree about the location of its headquarters, but if we interpret Revelation “normally” then the headquarters of this religious system will be in the actual geographical location of ancient Babylon, fifty miles south of Bagdad. The wrath of God leveled against Babylon will come in two stages described in Revelation 17-18.-

9. What happened in Genesis 11:4 at Babel? Who did these people want to glorify?
10. What two signs are given by Paul in II Thessalonians 2:3 that must take place before “that Day” (the return of the Lord)?
11. Discuss the apostasy of the church in the context of Revelation 17-19.
12. Can you imagine scenarios where people, churches and denominations will compromise their allegiance to Jesus Christ for the sake of unity, tolerance and “peace”? Discuss how this happens. See also Matthew 24:9-13, II Thessalonians 2:3, I Timothy 4:1-2, II Timothy 3:1-7, 4:3-5 and II Peter 2:1-3.

13. The harlot is “all about” tolerance. But how does she regard true believers in Revelation 17:6?
14. On the slippery slope, what happens in the Revelation time line after people have become comfortable with the compromise of following the harlot in Revelation 13:4, 8, and 15?
15. Who turns on the harlot in Revelation 17:12, 16-17?

The religious Babylon will be judged by the time of the Great Tribulation when the Antichrist demands all people worship him. The economic Babylon will be judged in the seventh bowl judgment.

16. What does the angel declare in Revelation 18:2-3?
17. Is it acceptable in God’s eyes for His people to compromise with the harlot according to Revelation 18:4?
18. Discuss the scene in Revelation 18:6-23.
19. In a few words, how would you describe this economic system?
20. What is the response of believers and the heavenly host to this destruction in Revelation 18:20 and 19:1-6?
21. Describe the bride in Revelation 19:7-10.

22. What has the Lord been looking forward to according to Matthew 26:29 and Luke 22:15-16?

23. In Revelation 19:7 the bride has made herself ready. This is not automatic. Can you think of ways that we, as the bride of Christ can make ourselves ready? See Ephesians 4:13-16 and discuss.

24. How is the bride arrayed?

25. If the church is on the earth during some of the Great Tribulation, how would the events we have learned about in Revelation 6-19 make her ready?

26. As awesome as this angel is, who alone are we to worship according to Revelation 19:10?

27. Share the memory verse that you found through this week's study and why you chose it.

28. From your meditation this week on Revelation 17:1-19:10, what do you want to remember?

Lecture Notes: